

Known from GB-A-21 82 603 is the use of a vacuum-tight chamber with a vacuum connection as a vacuum suction bell. Through the widening of the extrusion emerging from the drawing tool, transversely to the longitudinal axis of the pipe, a better fiber reinforcement of the product in the circumferential direction should be achieved.

In contrast to this, the object of the invention is to create a device in order to achieve during the production phase of the pipe, without interruption of the production process, a fully automatically-controlled conversion between several plastic pipe dimensions in the continuous extrusion process, the outside diameter and the pipe wall thickness being adjusted according to customer desires or to standardization, as the case may be.

This object of the invention is attained through the teaching of the main claim.

Advantageous configurations are explained in the dependent claims.

Expressed in different terms, it is proposed that a vacuum suction bell be connected to the pipe head in the direction of production, which vacuum suction bell is formed by a vacuum-tight chamber, to which is joined a vacuum connection; inside the chamber, measurement instruments control the outside diameter of the present molten extrusion and appropriately control the vacuum. Thus, through these means, the molten extrusion can be, for example, sucked up to a larger outside diameter, in order to be then conducted into the devices serving the further processing of the molten extrusion.

#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please insert the following amended claims:

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1. (AMENDED) Device, with an extruder and a pipe head (1), for producing plastic pipes, with a vacuum suction bell (2) connected in the production direction to the pipe head (1) and formed by a vacuum-tight chamber (30) with a vacuum connection (5), characterized through measuring instruments inside the chamber (30), which detect the outside diameter of the pipe-shaped molten extrusion and, by changing the vacuum, alter the outside diameter of the molten extrusion in a controlled manner.

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3. (AMENDED) Device according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the measuring instruments control the outside diameter of the pipe (10) in a touch-free manner.

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5. (AMENDED) Device according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that during the production phase the mass gap of the pipe head (1) is adjustable and provision is made for a calibrating station, connected to the vacuum suction bell (2), for the outside diameter of the pipe, in which station different pipe dimensions can be set during the production phase, and a vacuum calibrating bath (4) is connected to the calibrating station (3), in which bath the pipe (10) is cooled and hardened and leaves the vacuum calibrating bath (4) through a vacuum seal (9) that adjusts automatically to the pipe diameter.